

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 01499 201119Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7461

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AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A DECON UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PK

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION REACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS SUBSEQUENT
TO ARRESTS OF BALUCHISTAN NAP LEADERS

REF: ISLAMABAD 6587

1. STATEMENTS OF OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN: FOLLOWING
AUGUST 16 ARRESTS OF BALUCHISTAN NAP LEADERS (REFTEL
A) NUMBER OF OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN HAVE PUBLICLY CON-
DEMNED GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN PRESS STATEMENTS.
AUGUST 17 PROFESSOR GHAFOR AHMAD, J-I MNA, HELD
KARACHI PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE APPEALED FOR
POLITICAL PARTIES OUTSIDE OF UDF TO COME FORWARD
AND SUPPORT PEOPLE OF BALUCHISTAN SO THEY WOULD NOT
FEEL ISOLATED. GHAFOR NOTED UDF'S LINE OF ACTION
WOULD BE DECIDED AT FRONT'S AUGUST 19 ACTION COMMITTEE
MEETING LAHORE. GHAFOR EXPRESSED VIEW RESTORATION
OF DEMOCRACY AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS NOT RPT NOT
SOLELY UDF ISSUE BUT HAS BECOME NATIONAL ISSUE. HE
FURTHER SAID FRONT BELIEVED IN CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS
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FOR RESOLVING ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES BUT THAT ADMINISTRATIVE

LAWS CONTRARY TO PERMANENT CONSTITUTION AND NEGATING DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS ARE NOT BINDING. UDF HAS NOT RPT NOT CLOSED DOORS FOR POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS AND WILL TALK WITH GOVERNMENT IF ITS CONDITIONS ARE MET. FOLLOWING DAY, AUGUST 18, NAP BALUCHISTAN MPA AND FORMER PROVINCIAL FINANCE MINISTER AHMED NAWAZ BUGTI HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN KARACHI AT RESIDENCE OF INDEPENDENT PUNJAB MNA SHERBAZ KHAN MAZARI. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, AHMED NAWAZ SAID NAP-JUI COALITION STRENGTH HAS BEEN REDUCED BY IMPRISONMENT OF 5 MPAS AND A 6TH MPA WAS BEING SOUGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT. PURPOSE OF ARRESTS, IN ADDITION TO REDUCING COALITION STRENGTH IN ASSEMBLY, WAS TO FORESTALL COMPLETION OF NAP "WHITE PAPER" WHICH BALUCHISTAN NAP WAS PREPARING TO EXPOSE POLICIES AND INTENTIONS OF PPP AND BHUTTO GOVERNMENT. AHMED NAWAZ ALLEGED BETWEEN 1,000 AND 1,500 PERSONS HAVE FLED FROM BALUCHISTAN TO AFGHANISTAN SINCE THE ARRESTS IN MANNER ANALOGOUS TO MIGRATION OF EAST PAKISTANIS INTO INDIA FOLLOWING MARCH 25, 1971 MILITARY CRACKDOWN. BUGTI STRESSED NO NAP LEADER OR WORKERS HAD FLED PROVINCE. GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN BALUCHISTAN REFLECTED INCREASING INTERFERENCE AND INFLUENCE OF IRAN IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. BUGTI ALLEGED IRAN FINANCING CURRENT GOP MILITARY OPERATIONS IN BALUCHISTAN. PIR PAGARO, MIR ALI AHMAD TALPUR, ABDUL HAMID JATOLI, MERAJ MOHAMMAD KHAN, AND RASUL BUX TALPUR, ALL ANTI-PPP FIGURES, ALSO WEIGHED IN WITH PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN KARACHI CRITICAL OF ARRESTS AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC NATURE BHUTTO REGIME.

2. DEVELOPMENTS IN BALUCHISTAN: AUGUST 17 ARRESTS OF 2 NAP SENATORS, MIR MAHMOOD AZIZ KURD, AND ZAMARRUD HUSSAIN, WERE CONFIRMED EVENING OF AUGUST 18. IN ADDITION TO 2 NAP SENATORS ARRESTED ANOTHER NAP FIGURE WAS ARRESTED AT QUETTA AND POLICE REPORTEDLY LOOKING FOR OTHER NAP SUPPORTERS. ON AUGUST 18 THE 3 PREVIOUS MINISTERS OF JAM MIR GHULAM QADIR'S CABINET WERE SWORN IN AS PROVINCIAL MINISTERS BY GOVERNOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUGTI. CHIEF MINISTER HIMSELF HAD BEEN SWORN IN PREVIOUSLY ON AUGUST 15.

3. INCIDENTS: ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, INTER SERVICES PUBLIC RELATIONS (I.S.P.R.) PRESS RELEASES ANNOUNCED 2 ADDITIONAL CLASHES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT FORCES AND TRIBALS. ONE CLASH OCCURRED ON AUGUST 16 IN THE MARRI AREA WHEN HOSTILES FIRED ON A SIBI SCOUTS

PICKET AT BABAR TAK NORTHWEST OF KOHLU KILLING ONE
SCOUT NCO WITH AT LEAST ONE OF THE SNIPERS ALSO KILLED.
SECOND INCIDENT WAS CLASH NIGHT AUGUST 17/18 ON
BORDER OF LASBELA DISTRICT, WHICH RESULTED IN DEATH
OF ONE ATTACKER AND CAPTURE OF ANOTHER.

4. COMMENT: PUBLIC REPORTS OF OPPOSITION CRITICISM
OF ARRESTS CONTAINED LITTLE NEW. THEIR STATEMENTS,
WHILE BELLICOSE IN NATURE, VERY SHORT ON DETAILS OF
SPECIFIC COURSE OF ACTION OPPOSITION LIKELY TO PURSUE.
OPPOSITION FIGURES APPARENTLY EAGER TO RECORD THEIR
VIEWS PUBLICLY, BUT THIS NO SURE INDICATION ACTION
OTHER THAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS WILL BE TAKEN TO PROTEST
ARRESTS. ADDITIONAL ARRESTS OF NAP SUPPORTERS AND
SMALL SCALE CLASHES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT FORCES AND
ITS OPPONENTS IN BALUCHISTAN LIKELY TO SET PATTERN FOR
COURSE OF EVENTS IN NEAR TERM FUTURE.
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